* BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

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OFMA Hosts Second Annual Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop

OFMA, in conjunction with the Central Oklahoma Stormwater Alliance (COSWA) and the Green Country Stormwater Alliance (GCSA), are hosting the Second Annual Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop on Wednesday, July 17 at the Moore Norman Technology Center, Franklin Road Campus, in Norman.

The workshop will include presentations on municipal stormwater management, green infrastructure, inspections and enforcement, and total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) and runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Representatives from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, the Indian Nations Council of Government, and the Oklahoma Water Survey will be in attendance.

If you are looking for stormwater training for your inspectors or other city officials, this is a perfect opportunity to get them to a local workshop focused on stormwater quality.

Registration is \$50 per person and open now. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

Check out okflood.org for more information.

Legislative Reception

• When:

Thursday, February 21, Noon to 1 p.m.

• Where: Oklahoma State Capitol, Room 252



Congratulations to **OFMA's new Chair**

Jeff Bigby has been an OFMA member since and 2001 currently serves as Chairman Community of the Rating System (CRS) Workgroup. <u>He</u>is the Floodplain Administrator and Stormwater Quality Manager for the City of Broken Arrow where has developed he and instituted the Low Development Impact Program. His efforts to bring floodplain management and stormwater quality closer together are remarkable. He achieves this at the local level through municipal programs and engineering projects and at the statewide level thru his involvement in professional affiliations.

Words from the Chair

Jeff Bigby, PE, CFM

As the incoming Chair, I would like to thank each of you who attended the annual conference in Broken Arrow at the Stonev Creek Hotel and Conference Center in September. The theme of the conference was Flood Insurance Program Moonshots: Giant Steps For Oklahoma Floodplain Management. The conference included a field trip to the new, worldclass Gathering Place provided an excellent setting to speak of new recommitment to floodplain management in Oklahoma.

As you may remember, the FEMA moonshot goals are to double the number of flood insurance policies and to quadruple the investment in flood mitigation nationwide by 2023. All floodplain managers and floodplain professionals in Oklahoma can do their part to meet that lofty goal.

The annual conference featured several excellent presentations about things floodplain managers can do within their communities to both promote flood insurance and take on flood mitigation projects, both large and small.

I want to thank all of the OFMA volunteers who helped plan and work the conference as well as all of the great presenters. I am proud that OFMA has such great working relations with multiple state agencies and that the conference included presentations from OWRB, OEM, ODEQ, ODOT, Oklahoma Insurance Department, and even the Oklahoma Department of Education with the Teacher of the Year presentation. Multiple FEMA Region VI staff also attended and presented. It was a memorable

conference for sure.

As the incoming Chair, I do want to thank everyone for the wonderful opportunity to serve this excellent organization. There were not very many changes to the OFMA Board at this annual conference. The only new member of the board of directors this year is the incoming vice chair, Brandon Claborn, PE, CFM of Meshek & Associates. The secretary, treasurer, and all five regional representatives remain the same. I thank everyone on the board for their past and ongoing service and look forward to working with everyone the rest of the year.

The OFMA Board and several other OFMA members met for the annual strategic retreat in Tulsa in October. At the retreat, the board set the path forward for initiatives for the following year. Much focus was also given to making it a "working" retreat with hands-on work performed on such tasks as the OFMA website, budget, training cadre courses, stormwater quality workshop planning, outreach activities, and other recurring tasks. More information may be found in the Annual Strategic Retreat article on Page 10.

The dates and locations for the 2019 spring technical workshop and annual conference have been set and planning has begun. The spring workshop will be on Thursday, April 4 at the Riverspirit Casino and Conference Center in Tulsa. The Annual Conference will be held from September 16 to 18 at the Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant. Save the dates for these two excellent events!

continued on Page 3...

OFMA Annual Conference Award Winners

September 2018 Broken Arrow

Special Recognition Award

Stormwater Technical Workshop Team Raymond Melton, CPESC City of Oklahoma City Vernon Seaman

INCOG Michelle Chao ODEQ Carrie Evenson, PE, Ph.D., CFM City of Norman

Monica Cardin, CCEA, CFM City of Del City

Jeff Bigby, PE, CFM City of Broken Arrow

Madison Kynaston Fifth Grader Nicoma Park Intermediate School

Ronald D. Flanagan Outstanding **Recognition Award Platinum Project** Award

Jon Phillips, CFM OWRB Freese and Nichols Cynthia Williams, CFM City of Lawton

Chairman's Award

Jeff Bigby, PE, CFM Monica Cardin, CCEA, CFM Tom Leatherbee, MCP. AINS, CFM Joe Remondini, PE, CFM W.B. "Bill" Smith, PE, CFM

Charles Don Ellison Memorial Award

Todd McLellan, PE, CFM City of Norman

Words

...continued from Page 2

Note that there are multiple Advanced Floodplain Management Single Day Workshops presented by members of the OFMA Training Cadre in tandem with OWRB presenting their Floodplain Management 101 Workshops until May in all different regions of the

state. Please check the OWRB web page at owrb.gov to check for to get involved with a committee, workshops near you and to register. They are an excellent way to pick up continuing education credits for CFM certification as well as keep up to date on technical floodplain management issues. There is no charge for these workshops, so take advantage and sign up!

Lindsey Street Project City of Norman

Ben Frizzell Media Award

Mary McAtee City of Broken Arrow

The Silver Scoop Award

Lincoln Irvine, PE, CFM Region I Representative Jennifer Smith Lawson Meshek & Associates Michelle Loudenback, CFM City of Norman Amy Shepard City of Norman

> OWRB FP Management Staff

Leatherbee-**Robison Education Outreach Award**

Joe Remondini, PE, CFM

J. Gavin Brady Floodplain Manager of the **Year Award**

Nancy Kennedy City of Edmond

Turn Around Don't Drown® Poster Contest

1st Place Winner Kimberly Martin Agra, Okla.

2nd Place Winner **Baylee Birdtail** Maryetta Elementary

3rd Place Winner Regina Grigg Lindbergh Elementary

Honorable Mention Paytin Capra Fisher Elementary

encourage all OFMA members attend one of our board meetings, get to know your Regional Representative, volunteer to help out at a conference or event, or find other ways to keep in touch with the many knowledgeable and friendly members of our organization. You will be glad you did!









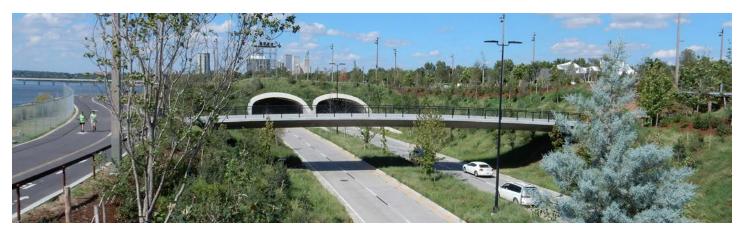






Thank you to Ellen Stevens and Michael Kimbro for photographing the 2018 Annual Conference.







OFMA Annual Conference Photo Recap

September 2018 Broken Arrow 5

Floodplain Management Training Calendar

OWRB Courses

The OWRB offers the following resources to educate and train floodplain management professionals on effective floodplain management practices and requirements. Floodplain administrators can earn credit toward Oklahoma's accreditation requirements by attending an approved conference or workshop, or completing FEMA's online courses.

Sign up today! Space is limited. Courses, dates, and locations are subject to change or cancellation.

General Course Information

- No registration fee required
- All courses are worth six CECs unless otherwise noted in the course descriptions
- Open to all community officials, engineers and interested individuals
- Lunch is on your own
- Floodplain Administrator Accreditation Application
- Memo on Accreditation to Community and County Officials
- Contact Cathy Poage by email at cathy.poage@ owrb.ok.gov or at 580.256.1014 if you have questions or need help registering.

OWRB Courses		
January 28 to 31 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	FEMA L-273 Four-day Course Managing Development Through the NFIP	OWRB Board Room 3800 N. Classen Blvd. Oklahoma City
March 7 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Floodplain Management 101 Focus on: Base Level Engineering Data	Frisco Center 101 S. 4th St. Clinton
March 27 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Floodplain Management 101 Focus on: CACs and CAVs	Canadian Valley Vo-Tech 1401 Michigan Ave. Chickasha
April 17 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Floodplain Management 101 Focus on: Common FPA Questions	Ponca City Hall 516 E. Grand Ave. Ponca City
May 14 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Floodplain Management 101 Focus on: Letters of Map Change	High Plains Tech Center 3921 34th St. Woodward
May 29 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Floodplain Management 101 Focus on: NFIP Overview	Southern Tech 2610 Sam Noble Parkway Ardmore
OFMA Courses		
February 1	CFM Exam	OWRB Board Room 3800 N Classen Blvd Oklahoma City
March 7 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Advanced Course Rural Development, Green Building, H&H/Drainage Studies, Section 404, Community Support	Frisco Center 101 S 4th St Clinton
March 27 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Advanced Course H&H/Drainage Studies, Ethics, Section 404, Resources, Flood Proofing Options	Canadian Valley Vo-Tech 1401 Michigan Ave Chickasha
April 17 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Advanced Course Substantial Damage, Disaster Response Team, Hazard Mitigation, Resources, Section 404	GRDA Center 420 Hwy 28 Langley
May 14 8:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m.	Advanced Course Flood Proofing Options, No Adverse Impact, Rural Development, Ethics, Section 404	High Plains Tech Center 3921 34th St Woodward
May 29 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Advanced Course Ethics, Green Building, Overland Flow, Flood Proofing Options,	Southern Tech 2610 Sam Noble Parkway Ardmore

Upcoming OWRB Training Initiatives

Yohanes Sugeng, PE, CFM

As we say goodbye to 2018 and welcome the New Year, OWRB floodplain management is reflecting our successes and lessons learned from the past and cannot wait to further advance the state's program. In 2018 alone, OWRB floodplain management team closed more than 30 Community Assistance Visits (CAVs), in partnership with OFMA conducted more than a dozen training events throughout the state, conducted approximately 50 community assistance calls (CACs), and improved the floodplain administrator accreditation rate by 100%. We cannot complete all of the tasks above without the support and cooperation from all of the floodplain management stakeholders throughout the state.

In January 2019, OWRB will kick off our training schedule with a weeklong L-273 Managing Floodplain Development through the National Flood Insurance Program class. The L-273 class is one of the most important classes in floodplain management and is the prerequisite class for taking the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) exam. Please visit the training calendar on our website at www.owrb.ok.gov/ floodplain/calendar.php for all other 2019 courses from OWRB and OFMA.

OWRB is also planning to conduct four additional CAVs in the first half of 2019 for City of Ardmore, City of Broken Arrow, City of Mustang, and Payne County. As a major component of the NFIP, the CAV serves the dual purpose of providing technical assistance to the community and assuring that the community is adequately enforcing its own floodplain management

Chickasho Meeting

Webinar Meeting

6

regulations.

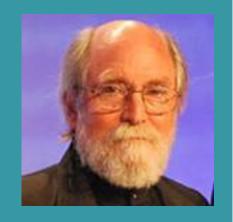
OWRB, in partnership with FEMA through our Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) program will start the year with a Discovery Findings meeting for the Washita watershed in southwest Oklahoma. The OWRB and its mapping partners will review the Discovery documents and present results, summarize available data and resources obtained from the community, review flood hazard information, and determine additional local mitigation needs. This meeting will conclude the Discovery phase of the Risk MAP effort.



	Date / Time	Location
		Canadian Valley Technology Center
a	January 23 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.	Building 200: Seminar C – 204C
		1401 Michigan Ave. Chickasha, OK 73018
		cvtech.edu/campus/1/ chickasha-campus

A Discovery Findings Webinar will also be held for those who do not attend the meeting. Please join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

	Date / Time	Access
		Please join our meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
	February 6 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.	https://global.gotomeeting. com/join/967950325
		You can also dial in using your phone.
		United States: +1 (786) 535-3211
		Access Code: 967-950-325
		First GoToMeeting? Let's do a quick system check:
		https://link.gotomeeting.com/ system-check



OFMA DRT Corner Bill Smith, PE, CFM

I found an old article I wrote in 2014 for the DRT Corner, and I thought I would update it as a reminder of actions that Floodplain Administrators can take in preparation for the Spring Flood Season.

You have heard the old adage "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Similarly, preventative maintenance is much cheaper than disaster response and recovery.

Each year at this time I remember back to a class that I taught to new Floodplain Administrators in 2010. I told the class that the winter time is the best time to clean out your ditches and culverts from the debris and sediment that has accumulated over the past years. Normally there is very little flow and the crews are not always as busy as during the nicer months of the year.

A local community floodplain administrator was in that class and asked for some clarification after class. He went back to his community and that winter had the City crews cleaned out ditches, culverts, etc. in preparation for spring flooding. The next spring the



rains did come and there was no flooding in that community because the conveyance systems were clean and allowed the stormwater runoff to flow without hindrance. I think of that floodplain administrator each time I teach that segment of floodplain management.

If every community would take the time this winter and do a similar type project, next spring, when "It will rain again, and possibly flood again", perhaps the flooding will be minimal, non-existent, or contained within the immediate overbank areas and not affect structures. If the creeks are on community property, it is the communities responsibility to keep them free from debris, tree growth, etc. If the creeks are on private property, you are encouraged to speak with the property owners and let them know that if their creeks cause upstream flooding they may be held liable.

I also want to remind communities that the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association has the very first Disaster Response Team (DRT) in the nation that is associated with a State Floodplain Association. We encourage communities to pre-sign with me or Tom Leatherbee of Del City so that if there is a disaster in your community in the future all it takes is a phone call to text message for us to come and assist your local FPA with Substantial Damage Assessments, Permitting, Outreach, BFE Determinations, High Water marking, etc. The OFMA DRT is recognized nationally by FEMA Region VI, FEMA Washington, and other states. I continue to have requests to present our DRT Program to our fellow state associations and do so with pride because of the support of OFMA, the OWRB, and FEMA in the development of this great volunteer team.

BLEs in Oklahoma

Brandon Claborn, PE, CFM

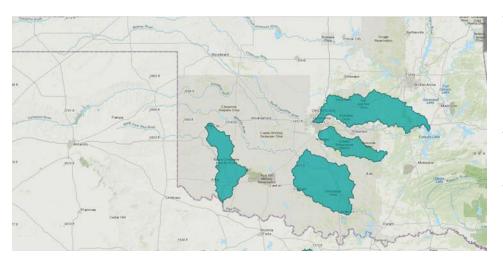
Over the past five years, FEMA Region 6 has been evaluating its approach to investment to provide flood hazard information. Base Level Engineering (BLE) is an approach that provides basic flood hazard information at a lower cost and with a shorter timeline than traditional FIRM development. This information has been developed for a significant portion of Oklahoma. In addition to presentations at the Annual Conference, Discovery Meetings and OWRB Training sessions, OFMA would like to help educate our members on potential uses for this data.

How Are BLEs Developed?

First – a terrain that meets the QL2 standard or better is required. Most LiDAR collection in Oklahoma meets this standard as does photogrammetry for 2-foot contour intervals.

Second – flow rates are typically developed using Regression Equations with adjustments for flood control structures and stream gage data. The 10%, 4%, 2%, 1%, 0.2% and the 1% plus/minus flow rates are required.

There are many uses for BLE at the planning level. CNMS assessment benefits areas where flood hazard data didn't exist previously and where previous data exists it can help to identify areas where updated risk assessment is needed. BLE analysis provides sufficient data to efficiently move from Discovery to FIRM updates with Zone A mapping and helps to identify areas where additional detailed study may be needed. Other planning benefits include regional planning by FEMA and other Federal. State and local agencies, Hazard Mitigation Planning, Local Grant Applications and Disaster Response.



Third – hydraulic models can be developed using a 1D or a 2D modeling approach. The 1D models are often developed with computer generated cross sections and may not include bridges or culverts.

Fourth – several mapping products are developed using the water surface elevations and terrain data including: 10%, 1% and 0.2% floodplains, 1% and 0.2% depth grids and water surface elevation grids, and HAZUS analysis.

BLE Benefits



Local communities and Floodplain Administrators can benefit significantly from BLE data. During a recent online webinar, FEMA Region 6 provided the following guidance for using BLE data as Best Available Information:

- The BLE results may be used in areas where no flood hazard information is shown on your FIRM
- Where BLE is similar to OR more conservative than the current FIRM it may be used to provide Estimated Base Flood Elevations to residents
- Where BLE is smaller (lower) than current FIRM, BLE should NOT be used to provide Estimated Base Flood Elevations
- BLE information can be adopted and used as Best Available Information by locals without FIRM or Ordinance update*

For more information, watch for FEMA webinars, download FEMA's fact sheets (www.fema.gov/medialibrary/assets/documents/160060) and learn to use all the features of the Estimated BFE Viewer.

*Consult FEMA guidance for specific direction



Annual Strategic Retreat Monica Cardin, CFM, CCEA, CCEO

The OFMA Board of Directors held their annual Strategic Retreat from October 24 to October 26, 2018 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Catoosa. There were 18 participants this year. The objective for the this year's retreat was to set the Board's agenda for the upcoming year and to complete some of its outstanding projects and plan for our future projects.

The first day of the retreat mostly focused on reviewing all of the Board's current activities, action items from the Symposium, the role of OFMA with charitable activities and new initiatives. The retreat members reviewed all reoccurring tasks and noted which ones needed more support and which ones were no longer needed. It was decided that it is time for everyone who has worked on the Annual and Spring Conferences to put all of the institutional knowledge down on paper so that as others begin new chapters in their lives, OFMA

can continue to "keep the wheels moving" without having to reinvent what is already working.

During the retreat, the OFMA retreat members discussed the creation of a CFM study guide or something similar to a study guide that does not necessarily "teach" the test but can also provide enough information to the CFM exam test takers. During the board meeting that followed the retreat on October 26, an adhoc committee was created and members selected to create a more comprehensive guide.

The second day of the retreat was a work session broken out into six groups with two groups working at a time. The focus was on projects that really needed to be completed but just needed some extra "eyes" to finish it. The website committee reviewed the new website and advised what items needed to be completed before it could be launched. While the website committee met, Tom Leatherbee ran the OFMA Institute review meeting. They made much progress and should see more product coming regarding the Institute.

In the afternoon, the Stormwater Technical Workshop Committee the Outreach Brochure and committees met. The Stormwater Technical Workshop Committee had a very successful session. They decided on a date and how much to charge. They decided on the format and when to send out the call for presenters and even started looking for a location in Central Oklahoma. The Outreach Brochure committee was very successful as well. They

rewrote eight brochures- the 6 CRS messages and one for Stormwater and one for the DRT. The Board then agreed to contract out for a single brochure design that all the brochures will be set on. OFMA hopes to have those completed by the end of this fiscal year.

Lastly, the OFMA Board created the annual Budget and Ana Stagg and Tom Leatherbee ran the OFMA Essentials workshop. Each group had two essentials to work. They were tasked with coming up with the content for the presentation. This part is complete. The next step is to get in production. This retreat was somewhat different than other retreats. It was very much a work retreat on the second day where everyone sat down and put their heads together to get things accomplished. A lot was done in those two days. The new website launched in January. OFMA now has two booths. Our next goals are to complete the brochures to put in the booths. The Board's plan is to review these projects on a monthly basis as each board meeting to ensure that all the hard work that was done is not lost and that our members see and use the final result.

Anyone is welcome to attend the retreat- one day or all days. All expenses (food and hotel room) are paid and we appreciate all the new ideas and floodplain management advocacy that happens. This was a wonderful retreat! I thank everyone for letting me serve as the 2017-2018 OFMA Chair.



Distinguished Service Award: Terry West W.B. "Bill" Smith, PE, CFM

This year the OFMA Board approved a new award recognizing the service our members have provided after many years of floodplain management to their communities. This new retirement award is called the "Distinguished Service Award". The first recipient of this award is Mr. Terry West. Terry has now retired from Tulsa County as the floodplain administrator since 2015.

Terry worked for Tulsa County for 37 years. Terry has been an OFMA member since 1998 and has been a CFM since 2001, and was one of the first CFM to take the national exam.

Terry was injured in a fall in 2017 and has been in physical rehabilitation since his injury. OFMA has assisted with donations for medical assistance in the past. The award and a check were presented on January 21, 2019 by Jeff Bigby, P.E. CFM, Chair and Bill Smith, P.E. CFM, Past Chair. The donations by many of our OFMA members will help with additional medical expenses for Terry. He is making great strides in his recovery.

We greatly appreciate the dedication that Terry has shown to OFMA as a member for so many years and we wish he and Janis the best in the years ahead.

OFMA HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

It was launched in January 2019. Please take a look and let us know what you think.

2019 Spring Technical Workshop: Improving **Technical Capabilities** in Floodplain Management

Attendees receive six continuing education credits.

- When: Thursday, April 4
- Where: **River Spirit Casino Resort** 8330 Riverside Parkway Tulsa, OK 74137
- Accomodations: **River Spirit Casino Resort** 888.748.3731

Mention the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association Spring Workshop when booking to receive the special group rate — \$109 per night.

Group rates are available until March 4 or until rooms are sold out.

• Questions: Carolyn Schultz cschultz@cimtel.net 918.906.3922

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Editor, The BFE | PO Box 8101 | Tulsa, OK 74101

Chair Jeff Bigby, PE, CFM City of Broken Arrow PO Box 610 Broken Arrow, OK 74013 918.259.2400 ext. 5242 jbigby@brokenarrowok.gov	Region I Representative Lincoln Irvine, PE, CFM 9400 North Broadway No. 300 Oklahoma City, OK 73114 405.242.6277 lincoln.irvine@benham.com	Region V Representative David Smith, CFM City of Woodward 1009 Ninth St. Woodward, OK 73801 580.254.8522 dsmith@cityofwoodward. com	Ex Officio Julie Cunningham Executive Director OWRB 3800 N. Classen Blvd. Oklahoma City, OK 73118 405.530.8800
Vice Chair Brandon Claborn, PE, CFM Meshek & Associates 1437 S. Boulder Ave. Tulsa, OK 74119 918.392.5620 ext. 207 bclaborn@meshekengr.com	Region II Representative Joseph Remondini, PE, CFM Corps of Engineers— <i>Retired</i> 3225 S. Detroit Tulsa, OK 74105 918.361.8636 jgbrady61@gmail.com	State NFIP Coordinator Yohanes Sugeng, PE, CFM OWRB 3800 N. Classen Blvd. Oklahoma City, OK 73118 405.530.8800 yohanes.sugeng@owrb. ok.gov	Honorary Board Member Ken Morris OWRB—Retired 5400 E. Tecumseh Road Norman, OK 73026 405.573.7990
Secretary Ana Stagg, PE, CFM Greely and Hansen 321 S. Boston Ave. No. 300 Tulsa, OK 74103 918.925.9490 astagg@greeley-hansen. com	Region III Representative James Kuykendall Town of Kingston PO Box 638 Kingston, OK 73439 903.814.2839 david@cityofmadill.com	Past Chair Monica Cardin, CFM, CCEA, CCEO City of Del City 3701 SE 15th St. Del City, OK 73115 405.670.7315 mcardin@cityofdelcity.org	Honorary Board Member Ronald D. Flanagan, CFM R.D. Flanagan & Associates 3015 E. Skelly Drive No. 270 Tulsa, OK 74105 918.749.2696 rdflanagan@rdflanagan.com